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Reports

[Item#1](#)
72% of Online Adults are Social Networking Site Users. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Joanna Brenner and Aaron Smith. August 5, 2013.

The Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project has been studying online adults' social networking site use since 2005, and has seen substantial growth since then. Today, 72% of online adults use social networking sites. Although younger adults continue to be the most likely social media users,

one of the more striking stories about the social networking population has been the growth among older internet users in recent years. Those ages 65 and older have roughly tripled their presence on social networking sites in the last four years--from 13% in the spring of 2009 to 43% now.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://pewinternet.org/~media//Files/Reports/2013/PIP_Social_networking_sites_update.pdf [PDF format, 15 pages, 808.60 KB].

Item#2

China and the US Court Africa. YaleGlobal. Raluca Besliu. August 1, 2013.

Within two weeks of assuming power, China's President Xi Jinping, visited Africa. U.S. President Barack Obama's recent visit, widely seen as an attempt to counter China's growing influence on the continent. Many speculate on which power will prevail in what could be described as an African version of the Great Game. During his visit, Obama said that U.S. investment would support local economies, not just devour resources. He also announced two initiatives: Power Africa, a \$7 billion program for sustainable energy, and Trade Africa, designed to increase trade with the East African Community of nations. Journalist Raluca Besliu suggests that China is in good position to garner influence. Its policy of non-interference with others' domestic politics may win favor in African states that lag on human rights. China has also supported development of local economies, with investments in infrastructure for many African nations and Chinese firms hiring Africans for blue-collar work. While China has a head start, the U.S. may face an uphill battle.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/china-and-us-court-africa> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

Creating an Environment Conducive to Progress in Israeli-Palestinian Peace Talks. Center for American Progress. Matthew Duss. August 5, 2013.

The opening of talks between Palestinians and Israelis last Monday marks a small but important step toward resuming the hard work of a long-held U.S. policy goal: two states for two peoples, Palestine and Israel. Since becoming secretary of state, John Kerry has held multiple meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in the effort to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table. While much work still lies ahead, Secretary Kerry's efforts underscore the importance of the two-state goal for U.S. interests in the region, as well as the urgency of the moment--just getting the two sides to agree to talk to one another presents an opportunity that must not be squandered.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/PalestineIsrael-brief-1.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages, 166.39 KB].

Item#4

Despite Some Warning Signs, Local TV Stations Are Hot Commodities. Pew Research center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. Mark Jurkowitz and Katerina Eva Matsa, August 5, 2013.

Many media business analysts have applauded recent Gannett Co. and Tribune Co. moves to increase their stable of local television stations and reduce their reliance on newspaper holdings. Gannett's \$1.5 billion purchase of Belo Corp. in June added 20 local stations to its portfolio, making it the fourth-biggest owner of local affiliates in the country. A week after Tribune's July 1 purchase of 19 new local TV stations for \$2.7 billion, the company spun off its newspaper properties, which are widely believed to be on the market. In response to the recent buying spree of local stations-which also includes Sinclair's plan to buy seven stations from Albritton Communications for about \$1 billion-one analyst declared that the local television business "is the best it's been in a long time. I call it a renaissance."

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.journalism.org/sites/journalism.org/files/Local%20TV%20News.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages, 227.86 KB].

Item#5

For Jobs and Freedom: An Introduction to the Unfinished March. Economic Policy Institute. Thomas S. Sugrue. August 5, 2013.

The March on Washington may be the most commemorated event in the history of the civil rights struggle in the United States. On August 28, 1963, in front of 250,000 demonstrators who packed the Mall between the Lincoln and Washington monuments, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered the speech with his famous refrain, "I have a dream." Those four words capture a popular, romantic image of King using soaring language to unify America in pursuit of a common goal, to create a society where everyone would be "judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin" (King 1963). Today, many activists and intellectuals draw a sharp distinction between policies to alleviate racial discrimination and those that challenge economic injustice.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.epi.org/files/2013/Unfinished-March-Jobs-and-Freedom.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages, 1.4 MB].

Item#6

Living to 120 and Beyond: Americans' Views on Aging, Medical Advances and Radical Life Extension. Pew Research Religion & Public Life. August 6, 2013.

With falling birthrates and rising life expectancies, the U.S. population is rapidly aging. By 2050, according to U.S. Census Bureau projections, one-in-five Americans will be 65 or older, and at least 400,000 will be 100 or older. Some futurists think even more radical changes are coming, including medical treatments that could slow, stop or reverse the aging process and allow humans to remain healthy and productive to the age of 120 or more. The possibility that extraordinary life spans could become ordinary life spans no longer seems far-fetched. A recent issue of National Geographic magazine, for example, carried a picture of a baby on its cover with the headline: "This Baby Will Live To Be 120."

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewforum.org/files/2013/08/Radical-life-extension-full.pdf> [PDF format, 76 pages, 414.KB].

Item#7

Local Job Creation: How Employment and Training Agencies Can Help, United States. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. August 6, 2013.

How to stimulate growth and support job creation are two critical challenges that countries and localities confront and limited resources require lateral thinking about how actions in one area, such as employment and training, can have simultaneous benefits in others, such as creating new jobs and better supporting labour market inclusion. In the United States, the study has looked at the range of institutions and bodies involved in workforce and skills development in two states, California and Michigan. In-depth fieldwork focused on two local Workforce Investment Boards in each state: the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency (SETA); the Northern Rural and Training and Employment Consortium (NoRTEC); the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA); and the Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works. The working paper concludes with a number of recommendations and actions to promote job creation at the federal/state and local levels.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/5k44zcpz25vg.pdf?expires=1375814666&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=ED07CA102910FC3C7F58600B383CF01A> [PDF format, 97 pages, 4.36 MB].

Item#8

Religious Leaders' Views on Radical Life Extension. Pew Research Religion & Public Life Project. August 6, 2013.

No religious group in the United States has released an official statement on radical life extension. However, here are brief summaries of how some clergy, bioethicists and other scholars from 18 major American religious groups say their traditions might approach this evolving issue.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewforum.org/files/2013/08/Life-Extension-relig-leaders.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages, 95.81 KB].

Item#9

A Rising Share of Young Adults Live in Their Parents' Home. Pew Research Social & Demographic Trends. Richard Fry. August 1, 2013.

In 2012, 36% of the nation's young adults ages 18 to 31--the so-called Millennial generation--were living in their parents' home, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data. This is the highest share in at least four decades and represents a slow but steady increase over the 32% of their same-aged counterparts who were living at home prior to the Great Recession in 2007 and the 34% doing so when it officially ended in 2009. A record total of 21.6 million Millennials lived in their parents' home in 2012, up from 18.5 million of their same aged counterparts in 2007.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2013/07/SDT-millennials-living-with-parents-07-2013.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages, 183.76 KB].

Item#10

Why are Fewer People in the Labor Force During the Great Recession? Urban Institute. Stephan Lindner and Austin Nichols. August 1, 2013.

The study examines changes in labor force participation during and after the Great Recession and makes comparisons with the recession of 2001. A deceleration in labor force entry rather than an acceleration in labor force exits has driven the decline in labor force participation during and after the Great Recession. The decline in entry rates is concentrated among women, particularly young women and among men ages 55 and older. Moreover, we find that the labor force exit rate is lower following the Great Recession than it was following the 2001 recession.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412880-why-are-fewer-people.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages, 967.90 KB].